(*c*) Applicants for renewal of licenses are not compelled to deposit their arms in police stations, but under Section 11 of the Travancore Arms Regulation, V of 1084, "any person possessing arms, ammunition or military stores, the possession whereof by him has in consequence of the cancellation or expiry of a license become unlawful, shall deposit the same without unnecessary delay with the officer in charge of the nearest police station." If applications for renewal are made sufficiently early, the necessity for depositing arms in the nearest police station may be obviated.

Portions of the Periyar River under the Control of the Forest Department.

43. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the portions of the Periyar river, flowing through the Kuttamangalam and Kotamangalam *pakuthies* of the Muvattupuzha taluk, are included in the reserve and placed under the control of the Forest Department?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that several registered wet and dry lands are included in the said *pakuthies*, that they are situated on the southern bank of the river, and that they contain human habitations also?

(*c*) Are the Forest Officers competent to take up cases against the people, penalising such acts as the taking up of cattle through the river and the use of the river for bathing purposes and for boat traffic?

(*d*) If so, will the Government, in the interests of the ryots concerned and for the protection of their cattle, exclude these places from the control of the Forest Department and make them available for the use of the public?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) Portions of the Periyar river flowing through the Kotamangalam and Kuttamangalam *pakuthies* and most of the registered lands on the southern bank of it fall outside the reserve forest.

(*c*) and (*d*) The restrictions under the Forest Regulation apply only to reserve forests. Specific cases of hardship resulting from such restrictions will be enquired into and remedied as far as possible.

System of Grant of Agricultural Loans.

44. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to give effect to the following measures with a view to enable the poor ryots to secure greater benefits under the existing system of granting agricultural loans:

(*a*) that there should be a restriction to the effect that no one will be entitled to a loan exceeding Rs. 1,000;

(*b*) that loans will be given only to those whose occupation is agriculture; and

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

(*c*) that all applications for loans should be disposed of within a period of one and a half months?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The member's suggestion to restrict the amount of the loan to Rs. 1,000 would not be in the interests of the public. Government have issued instructions to grant large loans only sparingly.

(*b*) The Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Regulation, IX of 1094, and the rules issued thereunder, define the persons to whom and the purpose for which loans are to be granted. Government do not see any reason to alter the Regulation and the rules.

(*c*) It is not possible to prescribe any period for the disposal of loan applications. Strict instructions have been issued for the disposal of loan applications as expeditiously as possible and the work is reviewed periodically.

Distribution of Appointments.

45. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to issue stringent orders that, when more applicants than one, having the same qualifications, come forward in respect of the same post in any department of the State service except the Devaswom Department, preference ought to be given to that applicant whose community is the least represented in the department in proportion to its numerical strength?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): This question is covered by a resolution balloted for discussion at this meeting of the Council.

Sericultural Expert.

46. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state the qualification and pay of the Sericultural Expert?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Sericultural Expert gets a pay of Rs. 60 in the scale of Rs. 60-5-100. He has undergone training in sericulture at Bangalore and Pusa and in silk weaving at Kashmir and Berhampur.

The Empire Exhibition.

47. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): In regard to the recent exhibition for sending exhibits to the Empire Exhibition, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number and kinds of exhibits collected and sent up by the Industries Department, with the exception of those supplied by the School of Arts;

(*b*) the amount spent for the purpose of collecting exhibits and the amount spent for the purpose of making or manufacturing exhibits;

(*c*) the total amount hitherto spent on account of the exhibition and the different items of expenditure; and

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